

**STATE SERVICES
AVAILABLE FOR
GRANDPARENTS
AND
RELATIVE CAREGIVERS RAISING
OTHERS' CHILDREN**



**DELAWARE HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR AGING AND
ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**

The following support services are available to grandparent and relative caregivers if they meet eligibility requirements. The locations and phone numbers of the Division of Social Services offices are on the reverse side of this brochure.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF):

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is Delaware's main cash assistance program. You can apply for TANF in two different ways: 1) for yourself and the child you are raising; or 2) for the child only. You do not have to have custody or guardianship of the child, but you must be related to him or her. If you are applying for a child-only TANF grant, only the assets and income of the child are considered. For more information or to apply, please contact your local Division of Social Services office.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE:

General Assistance (GA) is cash assistance that can be used for an unemployable adult, or used for people caring for unrelated children. Only the assets and income of the child are considered when you apply for GA. For more information or to apply, please contact your local Division of Social Services office.

RELATIVE CAREGIVERS' (NON-Parent) TRANSITIONAL RESOURCE PROGRAM

The purpose of the Relative Caregivers' (Non-Parent) Transitional Resource Program is to assist caregivers during the ninety-day transition period when a child initially moves into the non-parent caregiver's home. The program assists caregivers in meeting the child's immediate need for clothing, shelter, health, safety, and educational supplies. For more information contact the Delaware Helpline (1-800-464-4357) or the State Service Center closest to you. The Delaware General Assembly provides funding for the Relative Caregivers' (Non-Parent) Transitional Resource program and it is limited to available state funds.

MEDICAID:

Medicaid is medical insurance that pays for doctor's visits (including well child visits), in-patient and out patient hospital services, lab tests, behavioral health services, prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines prescribed by your doctor. Eligibility for Medicaid is determined by income.

Almost any child whose parent is not in the home and who has little or no income of his or her own can get Medicaid health insurance coverage. Low-income children can get Medicaid even if they cannot get Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). If you or the child is eligible, Medicaid coverage may begin immediately. For more information or to apply, please contact your local Division of Social Services office.

DELAWARE HEALTHY CHILDREN PROGRAM:

This is a health insurance program for uninsured children. If you have not been able to afford medical insurance for your child and you do not qualify for Medicaid, you may be able to purchase very low cost medical insurance through the State of Delaware. For more information or to apply, please contact your local Division of Social Services office or call 1-800-996-9969.

HELP PAYING YOUR MEDICARE PREMIUM:

Low-income Medicare beneficiaries may be eligible for help with paying all or some of their Medicare premium and, in some cases, payment of Medicare coinsurance and deductibles. For more information or to apply, please contact your local Division of Social Services office.

FOOD STAMPS:

Food stamps help single people and families with little or no income to buy the food they need for good health. A food stamp household consists of people who live together and buy food and prepare meals together. Spouses and children under the age of 22 who live with their parents must be included in the same food stamp household. The income of all the household members counts towards the food stamp income limit and determines how many food stamps they get. You may be eligible for food stamps even if you cannot get assistance from other programs. For more information or to apply, please contact the local Division of Social Services office.

CHILD SUPPORT:

The Division of Child Support Enforcement is the State agency that helps custodial parents and caregivers to obtain child support. Services are free to those parents and caregivers who receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, or Foster Care services. For more information in New Castle County call (302) 577-7171; in Kent County call (302) 739-8299; and in Sussex County call (302) 856-5386.

CHILD CARE: (Also known as Purchase of Care)

The purpose of the Division of Social Services Purchase of Care Childcare program is to provide support to families who need child care but who cannot pay for all or part of the cost. This service is available to parents, grandparents, or other related adults responsible for the child's care.

You may get help with childcare if you are working full-time or part-time and your income is low enough. If eligible, you will choose among the licensed childcare centers and childcare family or group homes that accept the Purchase of Care reimbursement rate. You may also create your own self-arranged childcare, with the help of your social worker. For more information or to apply, please contact your local Division of Social Services office.

PUBLIC HOUSING:

Public housing in Delaware is provided by several different agencies, operating with different regulations. The waiting period for housing varies greatly from one housing agency to the other. You will need to meet income eligibility requirements. You may also be required to have custody of the child you are raising, even if he or she is a relative.

The Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) Community Relations staff can provide you with a list of affordable housing options in your area. They can also provide referral information for many services including assistance for one time rental help, security deposit help or help with energy bills. Call the Delaware State Housing Authority's Community Relations staff in Dover at (302) 739-4263, visit their website at www2.state.de.us/dsha or call the Delaware Helpline at 1-800-464-4357.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN:

Behavioral health services (substance abuse and mental health treatment) are available for all children in Delaware. Private insurance and Medicaid providers can be located by calling the number on the insurance card. The Division of Child Mental Health Services (DCMHS) can serve uninsured children or those needing more than 30 units of outpatient services from Medicaid.

DCMHS provides a range of mental health and substance abuse treatment programs statewide beyond outpatient services, including a 24-hour crisis service. In northern New Castle county call 633-5128; in southern New Castle county call 1-800-969-4357; and in Kent and Sussex counties call 424-4357.

All DCMHS referrals are voluntary and require parents or guardians to provide written consent. The Caregivers' Medical Authorization Law allows primary caretakers to provide this consent when a parent is unavailable. For further information contact DCMHS at (302) 633-2571 or 1-800-722-7710.

PAPERS TO BRING WHEN APPLYING*

- Birth certificates • Social security cards • Pregnancy verification • Utility bills • Motor vehicle registration
- Proof of citizenship or lawful alien status • Pay stubs • Bank account verification

* Your worker will let you know if you need to bring other items.

DELAWARE HELPLINE!

1-800-464-4357 • Out of State: 1-800-273-9500

Got questions? Finding answers is our job!

7:30 AM – 6:00 PM • Monday through Friday

